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# Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

## Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe **Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 28th, 30th and 32nd meetings, on 12, 22 and 30 November 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.28, 30 and 32).

## II. Consideration of proposals

### A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.26 and A/C.2/65/L.46

2. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/65/L.26), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the principles embodied in the

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Declaration of Barbados, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Taking into account* all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006 and 63/214 of 19 December 2008,

"*Taking into account also* the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling also* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

"*Recalling further* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

"*Recalling* the Convention on Biological Diversity as an important instrument in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity,

"*Emphasizing* the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

"*Recalling* the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

"*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

"*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

"*Recognizing also* that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

"*Noting* that the Caribbean Sea, when compared to all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

"*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

"*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

"*Acknowledging* that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

"*Noting* the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

"*Taking note* of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

"*Mindful* of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

"*Mindful also* of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

"*Welcoming* the continued efforts of the States members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

"*Taking note* of the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work,

"*Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

"1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including, inter alia, the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law;

"2. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including, inter alia, the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts, including through the provision of new and additional financial resources, technical support and capacity-building;

"3. *Welcomes* the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to support, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

"4. *Welcomes also* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to support such efforts, including through the provision of new and additional financial resources, technical support, transfer of technology, capacity-building and sharing of experience in marine or ocean governance;

"5. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

"6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

"7. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit a report to the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, for consideration during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

"8. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

"9. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

"10. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity, to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

"11. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing them effectively;

"12. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States towards the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

"13. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years;

"14. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, based on their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

"15. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism within the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

"16. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a human resource capacity at different levels and to developing research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

"17. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

"18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-seventh session, under the sub-item entitled 'Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States' of the item entitled 'Sustainable development', on the implementation of the present resolution, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations."

3. At its 30th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/65/L.46), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.26.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.46 (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.26 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.40 and A/C.2/65/L.60

7. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/65/L.40), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

"*Reaffirming also* the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ('Mauritius Strategy for Implementation'), adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on 14 January 2005,

"*Recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Reaffirming* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly chapter 7,

"*Recalling* its resolution 64/199 of 21 December 2009 and all its previous resolutions on the item,

"*Recalling also* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,

"*Reaffirming* that the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, that the effects of climate change continue to pose a threat to the very existence of some of them and that, given their vulnerability, adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise therefore remains a major priority for small island developing States,

"*Acknowledging* the need to promote the development of regional and national capacities for disaster prevention, including through early warning systems, as well as reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas affected by natural disasters,

"*Recognizing* the urgent need to increase the level of resources provided to small island developing States for the effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

"*Recalling* that the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States have been acknowledged by the international community since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, and the Mauritius International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2005,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy,

"*Acknowledging* the unique relation of small island developing States to the oceans and the need for sustainable development and management of their ocean and marine resources to realize their development aspirations and increase their share of economic benefits from their ocean and marine resources,

"1. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the outcome document adopted on 25 September 2010 at the High-level Review Meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate the outcome document to all relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes, and regional commissions of the United Nations system;

"3. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and

major groups, to take timely action for the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, including the further development and operationalization of concrete projects and programmes;

"4. *Invites* the United Nations funds and programmes to mainstream and integrate the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation into their respective processes for small island developing States in order to promote coherence and coordination in support of their implementation;

"5. *Recognizes* the continuing challenges faced in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, while noting the importance of paragraphs 87, 88, and 101 of the Mauritius Strategy and taking into account cross-cutting implementation issues;

"6. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support for the efforts of small island developing States to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the provision of dedicated sources of financing, capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technologies to address climate change;

"7. *Encourages* regular and close consultation with small island developing States in the planning and implementation of follow-up activities;

"8. *Reaffirms* that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and further reaffirms that other relevant organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system also continue to have an important role within their respective areas and mandates;

"9. *Calls upon* all relevant regional and intergovernmental organizations to enhance cooperation, coherence and coordination through the Inter-agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States in strengthening support to small island developing States in further advancing the Mauritius Strategy, including paragraph 18 of the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Mauritius Strategy;

"10. *Underscores* the importance of providing the Small Island Developing States Unit with adequate, stable and predictable funding and staffing to facilitate the full and effective implementation of its mandates in accordance with the priority accorded to the Unit and in view of the demand for its services, in particular with respect to the provision of assistance, technical cooperation services and support to small island developing States;

"11. *Requests* that the trust fund established to support the preparatory processes for the Mauritius Conference in 2005 and the High-level Review Meeting of the General Assembly in September 2010, be replenished and applied to supporting follow-up activities, as well as supporting the participation of small island developing States in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio plus 20) and calls upon donor countries to make further voluntary contributions, in this regard;

"12. *Recognizes* the importance of North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South cooperation, cooperation among small island developing States and triangular cooperation in order to promote development programmes for small island developing States for the effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly, at the start of its sixty-sixth session, on the follow-up to and the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, taking into account paragraph 32 of the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, and, in its preparation, to consult with Member States and relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as all relevant national, regional and subregional organizations;

"14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General in his report requested in paragraph 33 of the outcome document to include the question of developing concrete time-bound objectives and commitments to enhance the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and refocusing efforts towards a results-oriented approach, and to consider what improved and additional measures might be added to more effectively address the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs of small island developing States;

"15. *Invites* relevant competent international, regional, and subregional organizations, and the United Nations system, to support marine scientific research and capacity-building in small island developing States in accordance with relevant United Nations development programmes and strategies;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States'."

8. At its 32nd meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/65/L.60), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.40.

9. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.60.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

11. At the 32nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.60 (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.60, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.40 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

### Draft resolution I
### Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

*The General Assembly*,

*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados,[2] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[6]

*Taking into account* all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006 and 63/214 of 19 December 2008,

*Taking into account also* the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7]

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[8]

*Recalling also* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum) chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] See resolution 60/1.

Colombia, on 24 March 1983,[9] and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[10] which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

*Recalling* the Convention on Biological Diversity[11] as an important instrument in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity,

*Recalling also* biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora[12] and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands,[13]

*Emphasizing* the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[14]

*Recalling* the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

*Recognizing also* that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

*Noting* that the Caribbean Sea, when compared to all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

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[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1833, No. 31363.

[11] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[12] Available from www.cites.org.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

[14] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

*Acknowledging* that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

*Noting* the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

*Taking note* of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

*Mindful* of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

*Mindful also* of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

*Welcoming* the continued efforts of the States members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

*Taking note* of the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work,

*Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including, inter alia, the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law;

2. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including,

inter alia, the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

3. *Welcomes* the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to support, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

4. *Also welcomes* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community to continue and enhance its support, as appropriate, to the Commission, including through, inter alia, the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technical support, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and the sharing of experience in the areas of work of the Commission;

5. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

7. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit a report to the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, for consideration during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

8. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

9. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;[15]

10. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity,[11] to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

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[15] *International Fisheries Instruments with Index* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. III.

11. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing them effectively;

12. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States towards the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

13. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years;

14. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, based on their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

15. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism within the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

16. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

17. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-seventh session, under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations.

## Draft resolution II
## Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

*The General Assembly*,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

*Reaffirming also* the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ("Mauritius Strategy for Implementation"),[4] adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on 14 January 2005,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[5] held on 24 and 25 September 2010,

*Reaffirming* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[6] including chapter 7 on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

*Recalling* its resolution 64/199 of 21 December 2009 and all other previous resolutions under the same agenda item,

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[7]

*Recalling further* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,[8] held from 20 to 22 September 2010,

*Reaffirming* that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] See resolution 65/2.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] See resolution 60/1.

[8] See resolution 65/1.

*Recalling* that the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States have been acknowledged by the international community since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, and the International Meeting to Review the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius in 2005,

*Acknowledging* the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

*Reaffirming* that the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant and specific risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, that the effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some of them and that, given their vulnerability, adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise therefore remains a major priority for small island developing States,

*Recognizing* the need to promote the development of regional and national capacities for disaster risk reduction, including through, inter alia, early warning systems, as well as reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas affected by natural disasters, including through the further implementation of the internationally agreed framework for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,[9]

*Acknowledging* that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and will continue to do so, and to that effect, small island developing States have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base,

*Recognizing* in this regard the urgent need to increase the level of resources provided to small island developing States for the effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

*Acknowledging* the particular relationship of small island developing States with the oceans and the need for the sustainable development and management of their ocean and marine resources,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[10]

1. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the outcome document adopted on 25 September 2010 at the High-level Review Meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[5]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the outcome document to all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds and

[9] *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1), chap. I, resolution 2.

[10] A/65/115.

programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups;

3. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely action for the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, including the further development and operationalization of concrete projects and programmes;

4. *Invites* the United Nations funds and programmes to mainstream and integrate the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation into their respective processes and within their respective mandates, in order to promote coherence and coordination in support of their implementation;

5. *Recognizes* the progress made and the continuing challenges faced in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,[4] while noting the importance of paragraphs 87, 88, and 101 of the Mauritius Strategy and taking into account cross-cutting implementation issues;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support for the efforts of small island developing States to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the provision of dedicated sources of financing, capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technologies to address climate change;

7. *Also calls upon* all relevant regional and intergovernmental organizations to enhance cooperation, coherence and coordination through, inter alia, the Inter-agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States in strengthening support to small island developing States in further advancing the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

8. *Underlines* the importance of providing the Small Island Developing States Unit with adequate, stable and predictable funding and staffing to facilitate the full and effective implementation of its mandates in accordance with the priority accorded to the Unit and in view of the demand for its services, in particular with respect to the provision of assistance, technical cooperation services and support to small island developing States;

9. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the contribution of Member States and other international donors to support activities related to small island developing States, including through the voluntary trust fund ("Small Island Developing States Trust Fund"), and invites donor countries to make further voluntary contributions in this regard;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South cooperation, cooperation among small island developing States and triangular cooperation, in order to promote programmes for those States for the effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

11. *Invites* all relevant organizations, funds, programmes and bodies within the United Nations system, in consultation with interested States, to coordinate relevant activities with regional and national marine scientific and technological

centres in small island developing States, as appropriate, to ensure the more effective achievement of their objectives in accordance with relevant United Nations small island developing States development programmes and strategies;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, taking into account paragraph 32 of the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and in its preparation to consult with Member States as well as the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, as well as all relevant national, regional and subregional organizations;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".